AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:


1.      (Currently Amended)  A computer system comprising:

a processor;

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing a pre-selected input characteristic;

a stored password;

instructions, during a POST procedure when ~~extended~~ security is enabled, causing the computer system to enter a mode non-responsive to inputs except the pre-selected input characteristic;

instructions causing a system boot or reboot not to be halted during a POST procedure, by an unauthorized user, by adding a timeout to the password;

instructions causing the processor to compare a first input entered by the user to the pre-selected input characteristic;

instructions causing the processor to ignore an input during a power-on self test procedure unless the first input matches the pre-selected input characteristic;

instructions causing the processor to prompt a user of the computer system ~~for~~ to enter a password when the first input matches the pre-selected input characteristic;

~~instructions causing the processor to compare a password entered by the user to the stored password; and~~

~~instructions causing the processor to process inputs during the power-on self test procedure subsequent to the first input when the password entered by the user matches the stored password.~~

in response to a password entry, the processor ignores an input other than the pre-selected input characteristic if:

a)      the password is not entered within a pre-specified time period after the prompt; and

b)      the password is entered within the pre-specified time period, but there is no match with the stored password; and

in response to a password entry, the processor processes other inputs in addition to the pre-selected input characteristic if:

a)    the password is entered within the pre-specified time period and matches the stored password.

2.    (Cancelled).

3.    (Currently Amended)  The computer system of claim 1 wherein:
the ~~data~~ first input corresponds to a keystroke on a keyboard.

4.    (Currently Amended)  The computer system of claim 3 wherein:
the ~~data~~ keystroke corresponds to pressing an F2 key.

5.    (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein:
the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to access a system setup procedure.

6.    (Original)   The computer system of claim 1 wherein:
the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to request boot functions.

7.    (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein:
the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to reboot the computer system.

8.    (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein:
the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to switch off a power supply of the computer system.

9.    (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein:
the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to access an Option Read Only Memory utility.

10.    (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein:

the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to halt a power-on self test function.

11.     (Original)  The computer system of claim 1 wherein:

the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to omit a power-on self test function.

12.     (Currently Amended)  A method of operating a computer system comprising:

ignoring all inputs from an input/output device during a power-on self test procedure except a pre-specified input;

upon detection of the pre-specified input, prompting a user for a password;

causing the computer system to enter a mode non-responsive to inputs, except the pre-specified input, during a POST procedure when ~~extended~~ security is enabled;

causing a system boot or reboot not to be halted during a POST procedure, by an unauthorized user, by adding a timeout to the password;

~~comparing the password entered by the user in response to the prompting to a previously-stored password; and~~

~~processing inputs other than the pre-specified input during the power-on self test procedure if and only if the password entered by the user matches the previously-stored password.~~

in response to a password entry, the processor ignoring an input other than the pre-selected input characteristic if:

a)     the password is not entered within a pre-specified time period after the prompt; and

b)     the password is entered within the pre-specified time period, but there is no match with the stored password; and

in response to a password entry, the processor processing other inputs in addition to the pre-selected input characteristic if:

a)     the password is entered within the pre-specified time period and matches the stored password.

13.     (Cancelled).

14.     (Original)  The method of claim 12 wherein:

the pre-specified input is generated by a keystroke on a keyboard.


15.     (Original)  The method of claim 14 wherein:

the keystroke is a pressing of an F2 key.


16.     (Original)  The method of claim 12 wherein:

the processing gives a user access to a system setup procedure.


17.     (Original)  The method of claim 12 wherein:

the processing gives a user an ability to request boot functions.


18.     (Original)  The method of claim 12 wherein:

the processing gives a user an ability to reboot the computer system.


19.     (Original)  The method of claim 12 wherein:

the processing gives a user an ability to switch off a power supply of the computer system.


20.     (Original)  The method of claim 12 wherein:

the processing gives a user an ability to access an Option Read Only Memory utility.


21.     (Original)  The method of claim 12 wherein:

the processing gives a user an ability to halt a power-on self test function.


22.     (Original)  The method of claim 12 wherein:

the processing gives a user an ability to omit a power-on self test function.


23.     (Currently Amended)  A computer program product comprising a storage medium storing data and instructions operable to:

mask all inputs from an input/output device during a power-on self test procedure, except at least one input that corresponds to predetermined data;

upon reception of an input that corresponds to the predetermined data, transmit a prompt for a password;

cause the computer system to enter a mode non-responsive to inputs, except the at least one input, during a POST procedure when ~~extended~~ security is enabled;

cause a system boot or reboot not to be halted during a POST procedure, by an unauthorized user, by adding a timeout to the password;

~~compare the password received from the input/output device to a qualified password; and~~

~~if the received password conforms to the qualified password, accept and respond to other inputs from an input/output device during the power-on self test procedure.~~

in response to a password entry, cause the processor to ignore an input other than the pre-selected input characteristic if:

a)      the password is not entered within a pre-specified time period after the prompt; and

b)      the password is entered within the pre-specified time period, but there is no match with the stored password; and

in response to a password entry, cause the processor to process other inputs in addition to the pre-selected input characteristic if:

a)      the password is entered within the pre-specified time period and matches the stored password.

24.     (Original)  The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:

the masking masks from a processor the inputs from an input/output device during power-on self test; and

the reception of the input that corresponds to the predetermined data is performed by the processor.

25.     (Cancelled).

26.     (Original)  The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:

the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to access a system setup procedure.

27. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:

the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to request boot functions.

28. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:

the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to reboot the computer system.

29. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:

the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to switch off a power supply of the computer system.

30. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:

the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to access an Option Read Only Memory utility.

31. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:

the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to halt a power-on self test function.

32. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:

the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to omit a power-on self test function.